1	2	3	4
2	The renovation of Gompas at Hemis	20.00	09.20
3.	Tourist Complex at Nubra	25.00	12.00
	Total	73.00	31.20

Stoppage of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express at Kopargaon Station

1016 SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express 2479 UP and 2480 DN train does not stop at Kopargaon (Maharashtra) station;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide a stoppage of this train at Kopargaon for the followers of 'Sai Baba' to visit Shirdi and

(c) if so, the time by which the stoppage is likely to be provided at the Kopargaon station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Reservation System

1017 SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated September 12, 1996 captioned 'Railway Ke Aarakshan Kendron Ki Halat Bhayavah';

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to improve the condition of these Railway reservation centres, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) New software named CONCERT was introduced in Delhi Passenger Reservation System (PRS) in replacement of old software on 9.9.96. To enable the data to be converted to make it suitable to the new software, advance reservation work was closed on 8.9.96 as this activity could not be carried out while simultaneously carrying on the reservation work at the counters. The reservations for the current day's trains and those leaving from the train originating stations upto 1200 hrs. of 9.9.96 were handled manually and for this necessary arrangements had been made at various train originating stations.

Wide publicity about the closure of the reservation office of Delhi PRS on 8th September, 96 was given to the public well in advance through all leading newspapers as well as through Akashvani and Doordarshan. The new software started functioning from the morning of 9.9.96. There were teething problems on 9th and 10th September when some of the terminals intermittently malfunctioned. This affected the reservation work at various locations, causing inconvenience to passsengers and was the cause of the adverse publicity in the Nav Bharat Times of September 12, 1996.

Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that system functions smoothly and without interruption to passenger bookings. For this purpose a close watch is being maintained over the software round the clock and no serious problem has been reported after 19th September, 1996.

[English]

Privatisation of Services Sectors in the Trains

1018. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to privatise some of the services sectors in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facilities are satisfactory and have already been extended to several trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons for privatising services in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Various services on trains such as catering, bed rolls, leasing of accommodation for carriage of parcels in luggage compartment of passenger trains had been entrusted to private parties on a few trains. Based on experience gained, a decision has been taken to manage the bed rolls supply departmentally.

Sanction of Chapter for Institute of Travel and Tourism Management

1019 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Union Government to Sanction Chapter for the Institute of Travel and Tourism Management which will assist in making available trained manpower in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on 5th August, 95 Tourism Ministers Conference had laid emphasis on the development of tourism throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have considered the proposal of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the places which has been considered as tourist centres and tourist attraction;

(g) whether the Government have agreed to provide funds for the development of these areas to attract more foreign tourists to visit these places in Andhra Pradesh; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to open a new Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Hyderabad. In view of the constraint in resources, the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been taken up.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The main points which emerged were :

1. Tourism promotional strategy should include development of tourism product augmentation of accommodation and infrastructural facilities and preservation and beautification of tourist centres.
2. Identification of Regional Travel Circuits.
3. Identification of monuments by the State Governments for development and refurbishment and upgradation.
4. Development of Rail Tourism.
5. Stress on Eco-Tourism and protection of tourist sites from deterioration.

(e) to (h). In consultation with the State Government, the Department of Tourism has prioritised the following projects for Central financial assistance in 1996-97 :

1. Rs. 75 lakhs for additional construction of the Yatri Niwas at Tirupati.
2. Rs. 20 lakhs for the purchase of Boats and Launch for Bhavani Island, Vijayawada.

The Union Government have also identified Hyderabad-Nagarjuna Sagar-Tirupati Circuit for intensive development.

In order to publicise Andhra Pradesh as a tourist destination, the Union Government has brought out publicity literature on Andhra Pradesh and also extended financial assistance to promote various Fairs and Festivals such as Deccan Festival, Rayala-Seema Food Festival and Visakhotsav.

Restrictions Imposed by Doordarshan

1020. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has recently imposed certain restrictions, such as increase in the fees, programme timing etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No restrictions have been imposed for giving programmes/advertisements on Doordarshan. However, as part of its ongoing activity to rationalise its rate card, keeping in view the emerging market trends, Doordarshan has revised its rate structure of commercial advertisement w.e.f. 15.11.96 enhancing thereby rates in certain categories.

Persons Engaged in Beedi Industry

1021. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of persons engaged in the beedi industry;

(b) whether most of the persons out of them belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward clases and women are in large number among them;

(c) whether permission has been given by the Government for manufacturing of small cigarettes in competition with beedis and for the purpose of giving incentives to small cigarette producers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the beedi workers and beedi producers due to small cigarettes; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The estimated number of beedi workers in the country is 42.73 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. A large number of beedi workers belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Pending Cases with Industrial Tribunals

1022. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 255, dated July 11, 1996 and state :

(a) if the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?